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929

TOT: 29 SEP 88

CIA

TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR, DIA, TREASURY DEPT,  
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS,  
USCINCSO QHTS PANAMA.

TEXT

PASS: NSA FOR ZKZK OO DLS DE (FOR NSOC).

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

DIST: 29 SEPTEMBER 1988

COUNTRY: CHILE

SUBJ:

DOI: SEPTEMBER 1988

SUMMARY:

Declassified and  
Approved for Release  
July 2000

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Page 1

82

TEXT: 1.

3.

4.

5. IN MID-SEPTEMBER, THE OPPOSITION "NO COMMAND" COALITION DETERMINED THAT IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP OF ANY PLEBISCITE TELEVISION PROPAGANDA AND WOULD SIMPLY WITHDRAW ANY PROGRAM IN ITS ENTIRETY SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT CENSOR ANY FUTURE INSTALLMENTS AS OCCURRED ON 12 SEPTEMBER WHEN THE NATIONAL TELEVISION COUNCIL INSISTED ON THE REMOVAL OF A COMMENTARY BY A JUDGE ON THE PRACTICE OF **TORTURE** BY THE **NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER (CNI)**.

THE "NO COMMAND" WAS SURPRISED BY THE GOVERNMENT DECISION BECAUSE THE COMMENTARY ON THESE **CNI** PRACTICES, ALTHOUGH AN EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION, WAS SHORT IN LENGTH AND A REITERATION OF PUBLICLY KNOWN FACTS, SOME OF WHICH WERE PROVIDED BY THE JUDGE IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW OUTSIDE CHILE IN NOVEMBER 1987. THE SPOT ALSO DID NOT IDENTIFY ANY CNI OFFICIALS, SHOW ANY CNI INSTALLATIONS, OR SPECIFY CASES BY NAME TO AVOID ANY POTENTIAL ACCUSATIONS OF HARM TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

6. ELABORATED THAT THE "NO COMMAND" BELIEVES THIS

ACT OF CENSORSHIP TO BE A SIGN OF WEAKNESS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONFIDENT ENOUGH OF ITS STRENGTH TO ALLOW SUCH A SPOT TO APPEAR WITHOUT INTERFERENCE, AS NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLICLY. [REDACTED] THE REGIME'S SUBSEQUENT CANCELLATION OF ITS PROPAGANDA SPOT ON 13 SEPTEMBER, IN A TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT TO EVEN OUT TELEVISION TIME, FURTHER DEMONSTRATED GOVERNMENT INSECURITY BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT FEEL CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO STAND ON THE MERITS OF ITS PREVIOUS DECISION.

7. [REDACTED] CHRISTIAN LEFT (IC) [REDACTED] INITIATED A SERIES OF CONTACTS WITH PARISH PRIESTS IN THE POOR SECTIONS OF SANTIAGO IN ORDER TO PERSUADE THEM TO PROMOTE NON-VIOLENT OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME BECAUSE OF "NO COMMAND" CONCERNS THAT THE VIOLENT REACTIONS OF SLUM DWELLERS ON KEY DATES WAS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO THE OPPOSITION CAUSE. [REDACTED] FELT THAT THE PRIESTS COULD BE EFFECTIVE IN CALMING THE POPULATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS AND ALSO WANTED TO PASS ON THE MESSAGE TO THOSE PRIESTS SYMPATHETIC TO LIBERATION THEOLOGY THAT THE BEST POLICY WAS NON-VIOLENCE IN ORDER TO AVOID FRIGHTENING AWAY VOTES FROM THE "NO" CAMP. [REDACTED] ALSO WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE OF REPORTS OF INVOLVEMENT OF SOME PARISH PRIESTS IN SUPPORTING VIOLENT ACTS DURING RECENT POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS.

8. [REDACTED]